



DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {302}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN (with dancing eyes).—Did you see that Cooper Union meeting of the striking *Sun* compositors?

UNCLE SAM—Yes, I was there.

B.J.—Wasn't it grand?

U.S.—In what way? The size of the meeting?

B.J.—No; not that; but the magnificent example of unity of action! Did you notice the men on the platform?

U.S.—I did.

B.J.—Wasn't it beautiful? Wasn't it inspiring to see so many men of different views, different political convictions all united to boycott that capitalist paper, and punch that capitalist concern?

U.S.—Can't say I agree with you. Can't say the sight was inspiring. Can't say that "so many men of different political views" did present "the united front" that could really punch that capitalist paper. So you see I can't enthuse?

B.J. (disgusted)—Is there anything that WILL enthuse you Socialists?

U.S.—Yes, indeed, I'll tell you what would enthuse us. A gathering of men who HAVE cohesive power. Your gathering on that platform was none such; and only gatherings that do have cohesive power are able to do any punching. That gathering was not STRONG though it may have been LARGE, no stronger than a mountain of sand.

B.J.—So you would like to have everybody think just like you?



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U.S.—Not unless people, gathered together, DO think just alike on important matters can they develop unity of action and the force necessary to PUNCH. As it was, you had Republicans and Democrats, Free Silverites and Gold Standardites, Socialists and Single Taxers, New Trade Unionists and Labor Fakirs—all were there. Now, the only spot where a capitalist concern IS punchable is its political side; accordingly, only to the end of giving a political punch is unity of purpose possible. And how on earth do you expect such unity of purpose from such a heterogeneous crowd as that?

B.J.—W—w—e—l—l—

U.S.—Simply impossible. As the capitalist concern in question knows that, and feels correspondingly safe from that only weak side, how much do you imagine it cares how many people gathered on that platform? IT has eyes. IT saw there a large crowd with no more cohesive power to do it harm than a sand hill, and it felt safe and happy. See?

B.J.—W—w—e—l—l—

U.S.—There is no WELL about it. There is much, however, that is WRONG. It is fit to make one burst a blood vessel to see these pure and simple tactics persisted in, and thus have the capitalist's hands played into. Had there been on that platform one-half the people who were there, but class-consciously united, then there would have been something to enthuse over. Then would the *Sun* have felt the blow—and, Jonathan, the day WILL come when that will be so. Pure and simple warfare may be beautiful, but it is not war, and nothing but WAR can be effective. Drop your illusions.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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